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News Release

HPD Warns Community of Scam

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The Harrisonburg Police Department has received a complaint of a recent scam.

A male called residents in Harrisonburg saying they have won a large amount of money and a new vehicle.

The caller then requests the victim to purchase a "Green Dot Card" or a "Green Dot MoneyPak." If the victim does not comply, the caller claims the victim will be charged a fine by the IRS.

This caller is very persistent and calls from a private telephone number.

Tips to prevent becoming a victim of a financial scam

- Do not send money to anyone, especially someone requesting money through the telephone.
- Do not provide any banking information or credit card numbers to anyone.
- If you receive a phone call such as this and you have caller ID, write down the phone number and report it to your local police department.
- If you receive a phone call or request that sounds suspicious, go with your gut instinct and do not provide any information to the caller.

If a prize or gift sounds too good to be true, it typically is (especially if you have not entered a contest or prize drawing).

Incidents such as this are very difficult to investigate due to the jurisdictional boundaries. Many of these scams are also conducted by individuals, who are located in other countries.